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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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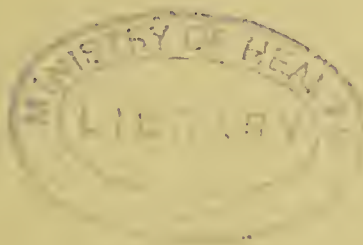
of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

of the

RURAL DISTRICT
of
MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH

Norfolk.



1952

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to which is appended the Report

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

of the

RURAL DISTRICT OF

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH
Norfolk.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

A.B.GUILD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W.H.EDWARDS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

G.DAVIES

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1952.

Mr. Chairman, ^{Ladies} ~~Mrs. Allwood~~ and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952.

The estimated mid-year population of Mitford and Launditch Rural District was 18,530, being an increase of 390 over the preceding year.

VITAL STATISTICS

276 births of which 20 were illegitimate, were registered during the year and there were 251 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate (14.89) has decreased by 1.26 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1951 (16.15) and is slightly lower than the rate for England and Wales (15.3).

There were 6 still births during the year.

The births comparability factor - the ratio of the national to the local fertility index - was 1.24, the same figure as for the previous two years.

The number of deaths during the year - 251 - was 38 more than in 1951, and gives a death rate of 13.55, an increase of 1.81. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.3.

The deaths comparability factor was the same as last year, 0.80, indicating that mortality in Mitford and Launditch was 20% lower than in the base years 1947/48.

If the Causes of Death table is studied in conjunction with last year's table it will be noted that the increase of deaths has occurred mainly under the headings (a) "other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms" + 9, (b) "vascular lesions of the nervous system" + 14, and (c) "angina" + 10. Against this there is a decrease of 8 under the heading "other heart disease".

The still birth rate was lower, 0.32, as against last year's rate of 0.70 and the England and Wales rate of 0.35.

There were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age giving an infant mortality rate of 36.23. Last year's rate was 30.72, erroneously given then as 37.17. The England and Wales infant mortality rate for 1952 was 27.6. Of these 10 infant deaths, 9 occurred under 4 weeks of age and the causes of death were prematurity 5, septic jaundice and prematurity 1, congenital heart disease 1, cerebral birth injuries 2. The 10th death occurred at the age of 5 months and was due to pyelonephritis.

Infectious diseases were responsible for 13 deaths - measles 1 and pneumonia 12.

There was one death from tuberculosis of the respiratory system giving a mortality rate of 0.05, the England and Wales rate being 0.24.

43 deaths were due to cancer in one form or another: this was an increase of 7 over the preceding year.

It will be recalled that a summary of the vital statistics for the past 20 years was included in the annual report for 1951.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

386 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year and measles was responsible for 313 of the notifications. The incidence of this disease was spread evenly throughout the year with the exception of the months January, November and December. A high incidence of measles occurs regularly in this district in alternate years.

Whooping cough. 33 cases were notified as compared with 81 last year. It is anticipated that immunisation against whooping cough will be commenced next year as a routine preventive measure.

Scarlet fever. This disease continued in its present mild form and only 9 cases were notified.

Poliomyelitis. No source of infection was traced in the two cases notified nor was there any apparent connection between them.

Food Poisoning. 9 cases of food poisoning were notified - 1 case in the 2nd quarter of the year, 1 case in the 3rd quarter and 7 cases in the 4th quarter. Salmonella typhimurium was isolated in the first case, a baby of 6 months. In the other single case and the 2 outbreaks involving 3 and 4 members of families respectively no source of infection was traced and no organism isolated from specimens of the faeces.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease	Total Cases				Admitted to Hospital	Notification Rate per 1,000 population	
	1952	1951	1950	1949		Mitford & Launditch	England & Wales
Scarlet fever	9	7	27	17	2	0.49	1.53
Measles	313	37	354	49	2	16.90	8.86
Whooping cough	33	81	58	-		1.78	2.61
Pneumonia	6	13	11	24		0.36	0.72
Erysipelas	1	-	-	1		-	0.14
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-	-	1	1	-	0.03
Infectious hepatitis	12	19	33	81	1	-	-
Dysentery - amoebic	-	4	20	2		-	-
sonne	-	7	-	-		-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	1	1	1		-	17.87 (a)
Poliomyelitis	2	-	6	-	2	0.12	0.09
Food poisoning	9	-	7	2		0.49	0.13
Diphtheria	-	-	-	3		-	0.01
Total	386	169	517	181			

(a) Per 1,000 total births (live and still)

Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Measles	11	11	25	32	36	167	22	4	4	1	-	-	-	313
Whooping cough	5	3	2	4	5	11	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	33
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	1	6
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	1	-	1	-	12
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Food poisoning	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	-	-	9
Total	18	15	28	37	41	187	27	10	13	4	4	1	1	386

Tuberculosis

25 cases were added to the register during the year, 19 of these being new cases and the remaining 6 being inward transfers from other districts.

The comparative figures for the preceding three years were:-

1949 - 20. 1950 - 26. 1951 - 19.

The distribution of the 25 cases by age and sex are given in the following table:-

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1-	1(a)	-	2	-
5-	-	1	3(a)	1
15-	2(a)	1(a)	-	-
25-	1	3(b)	-	-
35-	-	1	2	-
45-	1	-	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-
65-	2	-	2	1
	8	6	9	2

(a) denotes one inward transfer: (b) denotes two inward transfers.

There was one death from tuberculosis (respiratory) giving a mortality rate of 0.05 as compared with 0.22 in 1951. The rate of England and Wales was 0.24.

The numbers remaining on the register were:-

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Grand Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
31.12.51.	20	29	49	23	17	40	89
31.12.52.	24	30	54	28	18	46	100

14 patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, East Dereham, for treatment.

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1952 are given below with the data for Mitford and Launditch in brackets for purposes of comparison.

Formal Notifications

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-Respiratory	Case Rate
239 (9)	0.64 (0.149)	71 (10)	0.19 (0.54)

The mortality figures for the same period were

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-Respiratory	Case Rate
35 (1)	0.09 (0.05)	14 (0)	0.04 (0)

The Norwich Mass Radiography Unit visited Dereham in March, 1952. The total number of examinations (both sexes) carried out was 2174 and 2 active cases (0.09%) and 6 inactive cases (0.27%) of tuberculosis were discovered.

Causes of Death

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Measles	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	4	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	13	12	25
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
Diabetes	2	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	24	39
Coronary disease, angina	19	10	29
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	16	28	44
Other circulatory disease	6	2	8
Pneumonia	4	8	12
Bronchitis	7	-	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-	6
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	16	29
Motor vehicles accidents	5	1	6
All other accidents	3	3	6
Suicide	2	1	3
	<u>132</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>251</u>

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	102,371
Population (estimated mid 1952)	18,530
Rateable Value	£ 50,378
Estimated product of a Penny Rate	£ 213

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year, relating to the net births and deaths after correction for outward and inward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General.

	Mitford & Launditch		England & Wales
	1952	1951	1952
	Males	Females	Total
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	132	124	256
Illogitimate	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	<u>145</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>276</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.89	16.15	15.3
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
Still birth rate per 1,000 resident population	0.32	0.70	0.35

	Mitford & Launditch		England & Wales
	1952	1951	1952
DEATHS (All ages)	Males	Females	Total
	132	119	251

Crude Death rate per 1,000 resident population 13.55 11.74 11.3

INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year)			
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 36.23 30.72 27.6

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme

Immunisations carried out during the year by general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer were as follows:-

Under 5	Full Course 5 - 14	Total	Reinforcing All ages	Grand Total
188	80	268	202	470

The immunisation state of the child community in Mitford and Launditch is as under:-

Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14
Born in year	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1943-47	1938-42
	6	133	119	130	142	1385	1035

Approximately 34% of the children in the age groups 0-4 and 86% of the children in the age groups 5-14 have been immunised.

No cases of diphtheria occurred.

Vaccination

The infant vaccination state is very much the same as last year, 73 as against 79 infants having been vaccinated, but there has been a substantial drop in the revaccinations.

Under 1	Primary		Revaccinations		Grand Total
	1-4	5-14	15 & over		
73	3	-	3	7	86

Housing

The summary of the inspections under the Rural Housing Survey showed the position to be as under:-

1)	Satisfactory	614
2)	Minor Repairs	434
3)	Major Repairs	1593
4)	Reconstruction	400
5)	Demolition	778
6)	Disused	130

The number of houses erected in 1952 was:-

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|
| 1) | By the Local Authority | 50 |
| 2) | By private enterprise | 19 |

The houses were erected by the Local Authority at

Shipdham	18	Lt. Dunham	4
Litcham	8	Yaxham	2
Fransham	6	Scarning	6
Hockering	6		

There were 418 applicants on the housing list at 31st. December, 1952 as compared with 492 on 31st. December, 1951.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The appropriate action was taken under Part VII of the above regulations in 5 cases where *Brucella abortus* and 4 cases where tubercle bacillus were found in milk samples, collected by the County Milk Sampling Officer, on laboratory investigations.

One case of undulant fever in man (R) was brought to notice.

During the year 7 notifications of anthrax in cattle or pigs were received under the Anthrax Order of 1938.

Well Water Cyanosis in Infants

The examination of water supplies in connection with the artificial feeding of infants was continued during the year. Of the 38 samples taken 5 were unsatisfactory and 4 were suspicious from the bacteriological aspect while 11 showed an excessive nitrate content.

District Water Schemes

Lt. Dunham Swaffham R.D.C. wish to lay a main through the village in connection with their regional scheme, and the Council has agreed to purchase water in bulk at the boundary of the parish.

Hockering A scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, based on the use of the existing Council site bore, which has been successfully test pumped. The pipes and specials have been ordered for the mainlaying contract.

Rougham The borehole on the Council Housing Site has been test pumped, and the results have been submitted to the Minister. The pipes and specials have been ordered for the mainlaying contract.

Whissonsett The borehole on the Council Housing Site has been test pumped, and the results have been submitted to the Minister. The pipes and specials have been ordered for the mainlaying contract.

North Elmham
Mattishall &
Litcham The Minister has approved the proposals in outline and authorised the Council to seek tenders for sinking the bores. A tender has been selected and submitted to the Minister for approval. The pipes and specials have been ordered for the mainlaying contracts. Tenders have been invited for the High Level Tanks.

Shipdham

Modifications to the original scheme have been under consideration, mainly the reduction in pipe sizes. The pipes and specials have been ordered for the mainlaying contract.

The Council has instructed the Consulting Engineers to prepare schemes for Swanton Morley, Beeston and Colkirk.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Local Health Services under Part III

Domestic Help Service

1 part time and 31 occasional home helps are now employed regularly in this district in the County Council's service, and 56 cases were assisted in the Mitford and Launditch district, mostly old people and confinements.

Mental Health - Administration

There has been no change in the arrangements whereby Mr. Larwood and Mr. A. Boothman, Local Welfare Officers, are responsible for their own districts.

A fortnightly occupation centre for mental defectives is held at Beech House, Gressenhall, and at Fakenham to cater for cases in the area, the teaching and training being carried out by a qualified teacher from the Headquarters staff.

Home teaching of mental defectives is carried out in 6 cases either by the Council's Home Teacher or by the British Red Cross Society.

Close co-operation exists between the hospital authorities and the Local Welfare Officers who act as Duly Authorised Officers. These Officers carry out the statutory supervision of ascertained mental defectives and defectives under guardianship living in the community, and supervision of patients on licence or on leave at the request of the Superintendent of the Mental Defectives' Colony.

Similar supervision of mental patients on trial, licence or on leave is carried out by arrangement with the Superintendent of the mental hospitals.

29 cases were dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and after care is carried out in respect of cases referred by the Mental Hospital.

No new cases have been ascertained under the Mental Deficiency Act during the past year - two cases are awaiting admission to an institution.

Of the mental defectives living in the community 30 are under statutory supervision, 6 under friendly supervision, 6 on licence and 3 under guardianship.

Village Weighing Centres

During the year new centres were opened at Bawdeswell and Brisley. With the exception of Colkirk and Scarning, attendances have been very satisfactory and it may be necessary to up-grade some of these next year. The attendance at the Mattishall centre in particular has been very good. There can be little doubt that the zeal of the district nurse is reflected in the popularity of the centre.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Action under the Act was recommended in the case of one old man (R.P.) living in the Elsing area. The Council, however, did not approve of such action and the old man solved the problem himself by requesting his voluntary admission to a County Home. I regret to inform the Council that this man has been a bed case ever since admission and is now a patient in one of the Regional Hospital Board Establishments.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	17	1	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	82	5	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	63	99	6	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a & b) insufficient unsuitable or defective	3	1	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	4	-	-

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

During the year your Medical Officer of Health again carried out the duties of Appointed Factory Doctor.

53 juveniles from the area for which he is responsible were examined for fitness for employment and 25 of these were resident in Mitford and Launditch.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

A. B. GUILD.
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year 1952

Mr. Chairman, ^{Ladies} ~~Mrs. Allwood~~ and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1952.

Water Supply

Quality

Shallow wells form the major source of supply for domestic use in this Area, the quality of which is subject in most cases to seasonal variation.

The overall position as to purity is being gradually improved by the increasing number of bores sunk where existing supplies have failed or where they are considered inadequate to meet the demands of the installation of baths and water carriage systems. A similar improvement is shown in the case of milk production where bores have been sunk to provide a more adequate supply for this purpose.

136 visits were made in connection with queries or complaints regarding the purity or shortage of supplies.

During the year 140 samples were taken which are classified as under:-

Shallow Wells. Bacteriological test	Satisfactory	55	Total	107
	Unsatisfactory	44		
	Suspicious	8		
Shallow Wells after boring	Satisfactory	2	"	2
Deep Bores. Bacteriological test	Satisfactory	20	"	22
	Unsatisfactory	1		
	Suspicious	1		
Deep Bores. Chemical test	Satisfactory	4	"	9
Deep Wells " "	Satisfactory	4		
	Unsatisfactory	1		

The Bacteriological test to which water samples are subjected is the same as that applied for a mains supply in a Town. It is however recognised that in Rural Areas, well supplies will, to a large extent fall short of the desired standard, and a sliding scale for the interpretation of results has been agreed upon.

Well Water Cyanosis

It is the practice of the County Health Service to ensure that the water supply for bottle fed infants is satisfactory in regard to Nitrate content. In cases where the initial samples proved the nitrate content to be excessive, this Department obtained samples at the request of the County Sanitary Officer, and arranged alternative supplies.

8 such cases were dealt with during the year.

Quantity

Piped Supplies. There is no general public supply.

1. A piped supply derived from the water mains of the East Dereham Urban District, is available to 26 houses situated in the parish of Scarning on the outskirts of Dereham.

16 houses have an inside supply and 2 houses obtain their supply from a standpipe.

2. Water liable to plumbo-solvent action - Nil.
3. Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.

30 shallow wells were pumped out, cleaned, and repaired.

2 shallow wells were closed as being unfit, efforts to remedy the supply proving unsuccessful. Alternative supplies were arranged in these cases.

2 Wells were bored with satisfactory results.

Private Mains Supply

22 New Council Housing Sites have a piped supply inside the houses. This is obtained from a bore on each site. The North Elmham Council House site is supplied from a bore situated at the Old Hall Farm, North Elmham.

Emergency Water Supplies

The shortage of 1950 - 1951 improved to such an extent as to leave only a few sites requiring a wholesome supply of water.

7 sites were supplied by water carrying tanker from January to December 1952. The reason for this continued supply was mostly due to pollution which could not be remedied without considerable expense.

8 sites were supplied from September to the end of November due to wells failing, and in one case, the supply was commenced in ~~October~~ continuing to the end of the year.

Sewerage

No major works of construction or reconstruction were carried out during the year.

The open sewer ditches at Bawdeswell, and Mattishall Burgh were dug out and cleaned.

There are a number of these open combined sewer and surface water drains in the Area and 49 inspections were made to keep their condition under surveillance.

A number of boundary ditches are fouled by sink waste, and other sullage water being thrown into them.

74 inspections were made, and the necessary action was taken by interviews or letters to the persons responsible, to obtain the cleaning out, and means of filtration of this crude sewerage before entering the ditch. A general improvement has resulted.

New Housing Sites are provided with modern sewage installations. The effluent from the septic tanks is pumped over filters, finally being disposed of by soil irrigation.

Difficulty in the smooth working of these plants has been experienced owing to extraneous matter gaining access to the pumping chamber. This causes the foot valves to become choked resulting in failure of the pumping unit, and necessitating frequent pumping out of the installation.

In my opinion, the placing of a screen and additional scum boards would prevent the surging of sewerage, and increase the efficiency of the installation.

The question of inaccessibility to some of the sites is dealt with in my report on scavenging.

86 inspections of these plants were made by my Department.

Drainage

Progress continues to be made in modernising old and obsolete drainage systems to private dwellings.

21 new drainage systems were constructed to provide for the proper disposal of sink waste, installation of baths, and the conversion of earth closets to W.C's.

55 visits were made to give advice on the layout, and details of construction of these new schemes, inspect the work in progress, and test the drains on completion.

19 new private houses were completed with modern drainage.

8 new Council Housing Sites installations were tested and 4 extensions to existing sites.

Sanitary Accommodation

The old insanitary privy vault has been practically eliminated.

7 vaults were found and converted to sanitary pails, or elsan closets. A number of people have installed the elsan closet in preference to the sanitary pail.

8 additional separate sanitary conveniences were provided.

Scavenging

The scheme which is comprehensive in nature, covers the whole of the District, being carried out by Messrs. Edwin Clark Ltd. of Aveloy, Essex. under the general supervision of the Sanitary Officers.

The scheme provides for the weekly emptying of sanitary pails, periodical emptying of cesspools, and fortnightly collection of house refuse.

Disposal of night soil is by spraying on open land or stubble fields prior to ploughing, or made into compost. This latter method has proved satisfactory, and a compost heap properly managed, has proved to be inoffensive, and of good manural value.

Complaints of non-collection of sanitary pails have been few in comparison with the number collected each week over the Area. Inaccessibility of the premises is generally the reason especially in winter, but every effort is made to service these cottages in dry weather.

Difficulty is experienced with emptying cesspools at some premises owing mainly to the fact that these are situated at a distance from the road or house. This applies particularly to some of the new Council house sites where provision was not made for access to the septic tanks. The long pull and lift results in great strain being put upon the engine of the cesspool emptying vehicle.

These septic tanks also require the removal of three or four loads of 750 gallons of sewerage being removed from each tank to properly service the system.

626 cesspools and septic tanks were emptied during the year.

House Refuse

Collection of house refuse is greatly hampered by the unsuitability of the receptacles used for the storage of this refuse by private occupiers and tenants of Council houses alike. The containers range from old baths with big holes, to ten gallon oil drums, and old torn sacks.

These are generally left out in the garden, with no protection from the weather. In addition to being soaked by rain, wet tea leaves etc. are thrown in with tins, ashes etc. resulting in the contents becoming very heavy, and causing unnecessary labour for the men.

Broken glass has also caused cuts to be sustained by the men. One man was on the sick list for 2 or 3 weeks with a badly cut hand due to broken glass in an old sack.

In some of the villages, the people co-operate in placing the refuse containers near the roadside on the day of collection, and more general co-operation in this direction would be appreciated. The amount of house refuse shows no sign of diminishing, the quantity collected being almost the same as that collected at the commencement of the scheme.

In addition to garden refuse, old iron etc. the refuse receptacles contain a considerable quantity of paper, rags and cardboard. This latter type of refuse could easily be burnt on the kitchen fires, and prevent the blowing about of the paper on the refuse tips and possibility of the tips getting on fire. This is detrimental to the countryside, as well as being a nuisance.

Disposal of house refuse is by tipping into old disused pits which are placed as centrally as possible, and as far away from habitation as possible.

During the summer months, the tips are sprayed weekly with insecticide to keep down flies. Every effort is made to obtain soil with which to cover the tipping edge, and keep the dumps in good condition.

Regular visits are made to these disposal pits by your Sanitary Officers who also investigate complaints, and check on the general working of the scheme.

I have to report that the refuse disposal sites are regularly visited and treated by the official rat catchers of this Council, and good results are obtained thereby.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Three full time Rat Catchers were appointed in 1951, to carry out the duties required by this Act. Each man works individually, and covers approximately one third of the Area.

Their work has been much appreciated and has resulted in clearing premises of rats which if they had been allowed to breed, would have caused considerable damage and waste of foodstuffs.

Some indication of the work carried out by these men, may be seen by the following figures.

Type of Property	No. Inspected	Infestation	
		Major	Minor
L.A. property	50	11	31
Dwellings	7951	65	2375
Agricultural	1260	36	265
Business Premises	428	1	60
Total	9689	113	2731

Any queries or objections were taken up by my Department and satisfactorily settled.

90 visits were made to premises and checking on the Rat Catchers.

Housing

Housing & Public Health Acts

No. of inspections and re-inspections	...	284
No. of liveable Dwellings inspected	...	35
Informal requests to carry out work of repair etc.	...	81
Work completed as a result of above	...	53
Statutory Notices served	...	12
Work completed	...	4
No. of houses considered incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense	...	7
Demolition Orders made	...	2
Closing Orders made	...	4
Derelict houses demolished	...	4
Undertakings not to re-let accepted	...	Nil
Inspections made re Building Licences	...	35
" " " proposed " "	...	7

There are approximately 61 occupied houses on which Demolition Orders were made in the years prior to the war. These houses are deteriorating and becoming more and more unfit for human habitation. They are let at low rents and it is uneconomical to keep them wind and watertight. Unfortunately the occupiers are not prepared or in a position to pay the rent of a modern Council house.

Housing Act (Improvement) 1949

3 applications were made under this Act for a grant to improve existing property and one was approved. Two applications were abandoned.

15 inspections were made in connection with these applications and to check work in progress.

Sale of Food & Drugs Act

There are 6 Cafes in the Area.

The number of schools with canteens has increased, as is also the number of schools which provide dinners for the children. Visits made in respect of the sale of food is given below:-

Cafes and catering establishments	...	44
Shops	...	32
Fish frying premises	...	8
" " mobile vans	...	6
Food preparing establishments	...	14
Bakehouses	...	12

Visits under this Act and Factory Acts have been made to the Canning factory of Messrs. Corbatch Ltd., who have premises at Beeston for the production of tinned fruit and vegetables.

During the year, production increased considerably, and additional machinery was installed. Various matters of administration were dealt with as required under the above Acts. Some concern was occasioned in respect of the effluent from the sewage and washing plant. This matter was eventually placed in the hands of a firm of Consulting Engineers and improvements were effected.

Unfit Foods

The quality of foodstuffs sold in the village shops is generally of a high standard. The following items of food were condemned, being unfit for human consumption.

Carcase Meat

Beef	...	764½ lbs.
Pigs Carcase (1)	...	145 "
Pig Offal	...	7 "
Sheeps Head	...	7 "
Sheeps Pluck	...	5 "
Total		<u>928½ "</u>

Miscellaneous

Cooked Ham	...	14 lbs.
Meat Pies	...	1104
Fish	...	266 lbs.
Processed Cheese	...	17 packages

Tinned Foods

Pork Luncheon Meat	...	20 tins
Plums	...	116 "
Sardines	...	1 "

Meat Inspection

Slaughtering of bullocks, calves, cows, sheep and pigs is carried out at the Slaughterhouse in the Dereham Urban District under the control of the Ministry of Food.

I hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspector, and take duty at the slaughterhouse alternatively with the Surveyor to the Urban District.

Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Rural Area. 39 retailers of wrapped ice cream are registered with this Authority.

Supplies are obtained from large producing firms whose factories are outside this Area.

17 samples of ice cream, and 8 samples of iced lollies were submitted for analysis, these are reported upon as under:-

<u>Ice Cream</u>				<u>Iced Lollies</u>			
Grade 1	...	16		Satisfactory	...	8	
" 2	...	1		Unsatisfactory	...	Nil	
" 3	...	Nil					
" 4	...	Nil					

Iced lollies which are very popular with children are usually made by the retailer with well water and flavouring. I advised all water to be thoroughly boiled and the containers to be sterilised before mixing and freezing this sweet, in an effort to prevent contamination and illness occurring. No cases of illness have been notified as a result of eating these lollies.

Petroleum Acts

All applications for new licences and renewal of licences to store petrol are investigated by my Department. A check is kept on existing licences.

5 new licences were approved.

Sanitary Inspectors' Association Conference at Brighton. September 1952

I would like to express my thanks to this Council for appointing me as their delegate to this Conference, and the appreciation of the Public Health Committee of my report thereon.

Factory Acts 1937 - 1948

A copy of the Annual Return giving the number of inspections and action taken, as required by the Ministry is given at the end of the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. Edwards,

Sanitary Inspector.

